together, the securing mechanism configured to be secured only from a position on a top surface of the grating sheet in order to secure the grating sheet to the structural members so as to prevent displacement of the grating sheet from the structural members by extreme wave action, the grating sheet being attached to ~~structural~~ structural members in a wave zone area of an offshore platform;

wherein said [apparatus is] grating sheets are formed of corrosion resistant material and said apparatus is configured [is able] to withstand the forces of waves in [a] the wave-zone portion of [an] the offshore platform area.

15. (Thrice Amended) A fastening system for securing grating sheets having longitudinal edges comprised of parallel and transverse bars forming a pattern of openings to structural members of an offshore platform or other similar platform comprising:

elongated generally L-shaped connectors for fastening the longitudinal edges of grating sheets to structural members in a wave zone area of the offshore platform;

plate fasteners including a top plate for mounting on an upper surface of the grating sheets, a bottom plate for attaching to the structural members in a laterally extending direction for supporting the grating sheets and [engaging means] a threaded member extending between the top and bottom plates and through an opening in the top plate for engagement with a threaded nut for clamping the top and bottom plates together, the threaded member configured to be secured only from a position on a top surface of the grating sheet in order to secure the grating sheets to the structural members in a wave zone area of the platform;

whereby the elongated L-shaped connectors together with the plate fasteners provide fastening support for the grating sheets so as to resist vertical and horizontal wave pressures when secured to the supporting members;

wherein said [system] grating sheets [is] are formed of corrosion resistant material and said system is [able] configured to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an offshore platform.

18. (Amended) An apparatus for securing a grating sheet comprised of parallel and transverse bars forming a pattern of openings to structural members of an offshore platform or other similar platform, comprising;

a top plate for mounting on the upper surface of the grating sheet, the top plate having an opening therein;

a bottom plate being sized and shaped for attaching to the structural support members in a laterally extending direction for supporting the grating sheet; and a threaded member extending between the top and bottom plates and through the opening in the top plate for engagement with a threaded nut for attaching the top and bottom plates together, the threaded member configured to be secured only from a top surface of the platform in order to secure the grating sheets to the structural members in a wave zone area of the platform;

wherein said ~~[apparatus]~~ grating sheets ~~[is]~~ are formed of corrosion resistant material and said apparatus is ~~[able]~~ configured to withstand the forces of waves in a the wave-zone portion of an offshore platform area.